land to private parties for development during 1995-96.

(e) Does not arise.

Proposal to raise water charges for Industry

4543. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to raise the water charegs for industry;

(b) if so, the reasons which led to submit such proposal; and

(c) the details of steps taken to avoid frequent increase in water charges for the indsutry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Water cess is levied to augment the financial resources of State Pollution Control Boards. The present responsibilities of State Boards are continuing to increase resulting in requirement of additional resources. Further, the level of existing cess rates has not proved sufficient to motivate consumers to reduce water consumption. This has been confirmed through several studies. These studies strongly argue that the water charges should be commensurate with the cost of effluent treatment, and push consumers to promote water conservaton by making industries pay more for higher water consumption. It is thus necessary that these charges are revised, whenever required, in relation to the cost of effeuent treatment.

Creation of a movement to save Historical Monuments

4544. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Environmental Society has demanded creation of a movement to save the country's historical monuments like the Taj Mahal.

(b) if so, the details therefor. with objectives;

(c) whether a large number of archaeological sites and historical monuments of the country are getting affected by variations in weather, rainfall and different pollutents in the air;

(d) if so, the names of each, with locations, and reasons for variations in each case;

(e) whether Government propose to involve experts from regulatory bodies of Government Research Institutions, Universities, Industries and Non-Governmental organisatioss to work out plans and programmes to preserve the Taj Mahal, on a sustained basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Indian Environmental Society had issued a press note stressing the need to bring together various experts from the regulatory bodies of the Government, Research Institutions, Universties, Industries and non-governmental organisations to work out plans and programmes to preserve the country's historical monuments.

(c) and (d) The effects of weather and rainfall on the archaeological sites and historical monuments of the country are a continuous process, which have been going on for centuries. Environmental Pollution also has an adverse effect on marble, sandstone and other building materials. However, no specific signs of accelerated decay of the monuments due to environmental pollution have been conclusively proved so far.

(e) and (f) In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court, Government has already constituted an